

TAKING CARE OF OUR MILITARY FAMILIES

(Mr. ISSA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, the district work period was especially meaningful for me going back to my district, Camp Pendleton being the center of it, and having a Fourth of July celebration in recognition of what our men and women in uniform have done and continue to do for our freedom and freedom around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today very concerned that in fact the tendency to put the mission first is beginning to affect adversely the welfare and well-being of the families of our servicemen back home. We have had record supplementals and record payments on defense.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make sure that the funds that we earmark and put toward military construction, family housing units and the health and welfare of our men and women's wives, husbands and children get to them.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this body will work with the Department of Defense to ensure that those funds are maintained at the level that we put them in. It is essential that our fighting men and women away in combat know their families are taken care of at home.

NEGOTIABLE DRUG PRICES

(Mr. LANGEVIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it has been 6 months since the Republican prescription drug plan went into effect, and we are seeing prices shoot up faster than they have in 6 years. That's right, prices have increased by almost 4 percent in the last 6 months. Weren't Republicans promising prices would actually go down after their plan took effect?

The reason drug prices are not falling is because the Republican law forbids the Federal Government from using the purchasing power of 40 million seniors to actually negotiate for lower prices, an issue I raised when this prescription drug plan was first taken up by this House. That is exactly what the Veterans Administration does for America's veterans.

According to a report released last month, veterans' drug bills are 43 percent lower than seniors' bills as a result.

Well, today, thanks to a Republican plan that was written here in the back rooms by the pharmaceutical industry, these companies can charge our seniors any price they want. Unlike our Republican colleagues, House Democrats actually want to help our seniors. We want to give the Federal Government the ability to negotiate for lower prices, something that is good for our

seniors and good for the American taxpayer.

PRESIDENT BUSH DEMONSTRATES RESOLVE AGAINST NORTH KOREA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, as Americans celebrated their liberties on the Fourth of July, the dictator of North Korea threatened the peace and stability of free nations throughout the world. I visited Pyongyang with Congressman JEFF MILLER, and I know that by test launching seven missiles into the Sea of Japan, Kim Jong-Il and his regime clearly disregarded North Korea's prior agreements.

As our country continues to fight the global war on terrorism, our allies cannot allow an unpredictable rogue leader to proceed with his quest for nuclear weapons. We must continue to work for a peaceful solution to this conflict, and we must hold North Korea accountable to their nonproliferation agreements.

I strongly support President Bush's efforts of diplomacy and an antiballistic missile defense system to protect the American people. As President Reagan said over 20 years ago, we must achieve peace through strength.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

DOING HALF THE JOB

(Mr. McDERMOTT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, one of my colleagues just came back from Iraq. He brought with him a quote from a Special Ops officer who is operating in that country. This man said this: "We are not going to kill our way to victory."

Now, if you look at what has gone on in the last 5 years, this Congress has allowed the President to go into Afghanistan, do half the job, cut and run to go to Iraq to a war that had no purpose. They took out Saddam Hussein, the President landed on the Abraham Lincoln and said "Mission Accomplished."

In fact he was right, they got rid of Saddam, but they have been fighting a war of occupation for 4 years. When the President landed on the Abraham Lincoln, 141 people had died; and now, 2,400 more have died in this war of occupation with no plan to end it, no plan to get out of it, and no end in sight.

This President should be taken out of office. We can't do that, but there is an election coming in November of this year to take out the Republican leadership of the House.

PROTECTING OUR CHILDREN

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today the House Energy and Commerce Committee will take up H.R. 5319, the Deleting Online Predators Act of 2006, sponsored by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

As an original cosponsor of the measure, I urge my colleagues to give it their strongest support. As a mother and grandmother, like other parents, I am horrified by the statistics.

Mr. Speaker, 20 percent of young people have been approached online with unwanted sexual advances. Naperville, Illinois, a city in my district that has twice been voted by Money magazine as the top city in the Nation to raise children, has witnessed two high-profile cases in the past 2 months. Thanks to the Naperville police and the Illinois State Police, the two crimes were uncovered before the predators met the children.

In Michigan, one minor had traveled halfway around the world to meet a man in the West Bank town of Jericho that she met on the networking Web site MySpace.com.

As children, many of us were taught never to talk to strangers. As parents and grandparents, our message must change with technology to include strangers on the Internet.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, let me ask the American people how much they love America, I know Americans love America giving all that they can give, an America that has opened her heart and mind to immigrants from all over the world and built a great nation, an America where everyone is proud because we have welcomed those from around the world who have fled oppression and persecution.

Why, then, do my friends on the other side of the aisle want to have the scapegoat-and-run policy for immigration, and that is refusing to stand and address the question that we all have come from somewhere and contributed to this Nation. And then, of course, we want to secure our homeland because we love America.

Why don't we have meetings, or a conference committee meeting in order to address the House and Senate bill so that Americans know that we care about securing their homeland; but yes, we recognize that the Irish and the Polish and those who come from Hispanic origins or Africa or the Caribbean or European heritage have all made this country great.

A pathway to citizenship, border security, not scapegoat and run, that is what America is all about. They want leadership and courage; they don't want anyone who stands for doing nothing.